

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067354

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R 111951 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

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FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAKAR ABIDJAN ACCRA BONN BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN DAR ES SALAAM DUBLIN THE HAGUE KAMPALA KINGSTON
KINSHASA LAGOS LONDON LUSAKA LUXEMBOURG NAIROBI PARIS ROME
YAOUNDE GENEVA OECD PARIS FROM EC BRUSSELS 06 APR 73 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, XA, EEC

SUBJ: INITIAL EC COMMISSION REPORT TO THE COUNCIL IN PREPARATION
FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF YAOUNDE III

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1817 (B) EC BRUSSELS 1818 (C) EC A-145
(APRIL 3, 1973)

1. SUMMARY. SEVERAL KEY COMMUNITY FIGURES TELL US THAT, IN
CONSIDERING THE EC COMMISSION SUGGESTION FOR A " FREE TRADE
AREA" APPROACH FOR YAOUNDE III, WE SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND
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THAT THE COMMUNITY' S INITIAL OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE IS TO GET THE AFRICANS TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE COMMISSION IS INCREASINGLY EMPHASIZING THAT THERE ARE NO PRECONDITIONS TO BEGIN THE NEGOTIATIONS. NONE OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAS TO AGREE TO ACCEPT THE SO- CALLED FREE TRADE AREA CONCEPT AS A BASIS FOR BEGINNING THE TALKS IN AUGUST. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE EC COMMISSION' S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON THE YAOUNDE NEGOTIATIONS (REFERENCED MESSAGES), WE WISH TO CALL ATTENTION TO ONE ASPECT WHICH DOES NOT COME THROUGH VERY CLEARLY IN THE DOCUMENT ITSELF BUT WHOSE SIGNIFICANCE HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED TO US BY UK AMBASSADOR PALLISER AND SIR CHRISTOPHER DOAMES. THIS IS A WIDESPREAD VIEW WITHIN THE COMMISSION -- AND CERTAINLY THE UK VIEW -- THAT THE COMMUNITY' S OVERRIDING INITIAL OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO GET ALL OF THE PRESENT YAOUNDE COUNTRIES PLUS THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATES (WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF NIGERIA) TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITHOUT ANY PRE- CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY THE COMMUNITY. ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION DOCUMENT SETS FORTH A MODEL COVERING THE SO- CALLED " FREE TRADE" CONCEPT, ARRANGEMENTS FOR STABILIZING COMMODITY RECEIPTS; ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; ETC., THE BRITISH AND THE COMMISSION WISH ABOVE ALL TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES IN FACT BEGIN THE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ADVANCE COMMITMENTS ABOUT THE BASIS ON WHICH THEY WILL NEGOTIATE ASSOCIATION WITH THE ENLARG COMMUNITY: E. G., " FREE TRADE AREA."

3. THE INTRODUCTORY SECTION OF THE EC COMMISSION PAPER DOES CONTAIN A FEW PASSAGES THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED IN THE FOREGOING SENSE. IT SAYS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE COMMUNITY FORESEES "... THE OPENING OF A TRUE DIALOGUE WITH THE NEW PARTNERS (READ THE ASSOCIABLES), SOMETHING WHICH OBVIOUSLY IMPLIES TAKING ACCOUNT ON THE POSITIONS AND PROPOSALS. THE WISH TO EXPRESS, HOWEVER THE POINT COMES OUT CLEARLY IN SOAMES APRIL 5 SPEECH (EC BRUSSELS 1911) IN WHICH HE EXPLICITLY SAID QUOTE NOW WE WANT AS MANY OF THEM AS POSSIBLE TO COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE; WE POSE NO PRECONDITIONS. WE WANT THEM TO COME AND TALK TO US, TO EXPLAIN THEIR CONCERNS, AND TO HELP US TO FIND TOGETHER THE MOST APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS FOR THEIR PROBLEMS. UNQUOTE

4. WHILE WE DIDNOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE THE SIGNIFICANCE ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINT ABOUT NO PRIOR CONDITIONS -- ESPECIALLY SINCE THE COMMISSION

PAPER PRESENTS ONLY ONE APPROACH TO THE EUROPEAN- AFRICAN TRADE RELATIONSHIP (" FREE TRADE AREAS") -- IT IS OBVIOUSLY BETTER FROM THE STANDPOINT OF OUR OBJECTIVES THAT THIS BE THE CASE. THE COMMISSION IS ALSO EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ITS SUGGESTION FOR COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS TO STABILIZE THE ASSOCIATES' EXPORT EARNINGS. COMMISSIONERS GUNDELACH AND DENIAU HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THIS ASPECT IS POTENTIALLY MORE IMPORTANT TO THE AFRICANS THAN THE TARIFF ASPECTS. GUNDELACH IN PARTICULAR HAS MADE THE POINT THAT EMPHASIS ON THE COMMODITY QUESTION MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THAT IT TENDS TO DEEMPHASIZE TARIFF PREFERENCES AS THE CENTRAL ELEMENT IN THE ASSOCIATES' TRADE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY.

5. DUNCAN VISITED BRUSSELS APRIL 6 FOR TALKS WITH USEC AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. HIS TALK AT THE EC COMMISSION CONFIRMED THE FORE-GOING.
GREENWALD UNQUOTE ROGERS

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